



NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

Western Region Notes

JULY 15, 2004

REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S OFFICE



Announcing the 2004 LIFT class: We would like to thank everyone who applied for the 2004 LIFT program. We received 39 applications, and we selected 15 candidates to participate:

1. Andy Bailey	WCM	WFO Las Vegas
2. Jay Breidenbach	SH	WFO Boise
3. Brad Colman	SOO	WFO Seattle
4. Kirby Cook	SSD	WRH
5. Pete Fickenschner	Hydrologist	CNRFC
6. Robin Fox	Lead Forecaster	WFO Spokane
7. Robyn Heffernan	Forecaster	WFO Boise
8. Steve Kusyj	ET	WFO Oxnard
9. Brandt Maxwell	Forecaster	WFO San Diego
10. Donna Mills	ASA	WFO Pocatello
11. Johnnie Powell	HMT	WFO Sacramento
12. Bill Rasch	Lead Forecaster	WFO Billings
13. Jeff Savadel	Lead Forecaster	WFO Elko
14. Craig Schmidt	MSD	WRH
15. Mike Staudenmaier	SOO	WFO Flagstaff



Parravano (left) receives the Environmental Hero Award from NOAA Administrator VADM Lautenbacher.

WFO Monterey Presents Environmental Hero Award:

Pietro Parravano, a commercial fisherman and past President of the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, received the NOAA Environmental Hero Award on June 28. The award was presented by NOAA Administrator Vice Adm. Conrad C. Lautenbacher and WFO Monterey MIC Dave Reynolds. Parravano, owner and operator of a commercial fishing vessel, was recognized for improving the awareness of NWS forecasters and NOAA's Office of Research staff to the hazards faced by the California fishing community. The award was presented at the San Francisco Maritime Museum Visitors Center as part of the 150th Anniversary ceremony of the San Francisco Tide Gage.

METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES DIVISION

Statement of the Week: This week's Statement of the Week is a special weather statement issued by WFO Glasgow at 3 a.m. on July 11, highlighting a threat of severe weather for that afternoon. Coupled with this was the issuance of 15 severe thunderstorm warnings, 5 tornado warnings, and a flash flood warning for the convective episode which developed. All in all, at least 22 reports of large hail were reported with one report of hailstones to 4.25 inches in diameter, winds to 100 mph and 2 reports of tornados. WFO Glasgow, as well as WFOs Billings and Great Falls, did an excellent job handling the severe weather outbreak, and our kudos are extended to everyone involved in providing such excellent public service!

SPECIAL WEATHER STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE GLASGOW MT
257 AM MDT SUN JUL 11 2004

MTZ017>020-022>027-061-062-112200-
CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN VALLEY-DANIELS-DAWSON-EASTERN ROOSEVELT-
GARFIELD-MCCONE-NORTHERN VALLEY-PRAIRIE-RICHLAND-SHERIDAN-
WESTERN ROOSEVELT-WIBAUX-
INCLUDING THE CITIES OF
.....CIRCLE.....CULBERTSON.....GLASGOW.....GLENDALE.....JORDAN.....OPH
EIM... PLENTYWOOD.....SCOBEE.....SIDNEY.....TERRY.....WIBAUX AND
WOLF POINT
257 AM MDT SUN JUL 11 2004

.....SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS POSSIBLE THIS AFTERNOON AND EVENING.....

A COLD FRONT WILL MOVE FROM WEST TO EAST ACROSS MONTANA TODAY.
SCATTERED THUNDERSTORMS ARE EXPECTED TO DEVELOP ALONG AND
AHEAD OF THE FRONT THIS AFTERNOON AND EVENING. THE POTENTIAL
EXISTS FOR THESE THUNDERSTORMS TO BECOME SEVERE.....WITH LARGE
HAIL AND DAMAGING WINDS THE MAIN THREAT. THE POTENTIAL FOR SEVERE
THUNDERSTORMS WILL END FROM THE WEST TO EAST LATER THIS EVENING.

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JJZWWW

WFO Boise Receives Kudo for Wx Support: WFO Boise received the following note from a local TV WxCaster for their support to a local Hot Air Balloon event.

John,

On behalf of everyone involved in "The Spirit of Boise Balloon Classic" that was held two weeks ago, I would like send my sincere thanks to your entire staff for helping keep our hot air

balloonists and concert spectators safe.

The most impressive example of your staff providing critical weather information in a timely manner came on that Saturday night during an outdoor concert. I was able to get up to the minute nowcasts for a gust front and thunderstorm approaching Ann Morrison Park. With these important updates, officials were able to secure the staging area moments before the gusty winds hit the park. The concert was then canceled with enough lead time for the spectators to get safe cover before the lightning approached.

As always, I am again reminded how important the relationship is between the National Weather Service and the media.

Please extend my thanks to your entire staff.

*Sincerely,
Scott Dorval
Chief Meteorologist
KIVI 6 On Your Side*



WFO Seattle Fire Weather Forecaster Jim Prange is interviewed by a reporter from Seattle TV station KOMO-TV (ABC).

Seattle Fire Weather Media Tour: On July 1, WFO Seattle Fire Weather Forecasters Jim Prange and Andy Haner, along with WCM Ted Buehner, hit the road to visit key Seattle area media outlets to discuss fire weather issues, including concerns specific to the 4th of July weekend. They visited all four Seattle network TV stations and Northwest Cable News, meeting with both morning and evening weather staff. They also met with the two news radio stations and the Seattle Post-Intelligence and Times newspapers.

Specific issues included the weather outlook for the wildfire season, IMETs work with fire crews, possible future interviews with the fire weather forecasters at fire camps, and urban-interface wildfire concerns. Articles about the media

tour appeared in both of the Seattle newspapers, and news stories aired on most of the TV and radio stations visited.



Photo by ASA Daisy Noceda

WFO San Joaquin Valley Participates in Summer Science Camp:

On July 14, San Joaquin Valley Meteorologist Intern Danny Harty instructed a session at a summer science camp held at Pioneer Middle School in Hanford. The camp is designed to interest students in science through hands-on experiments. Danny is shown in the photo on the left with one of 60 3rd - 8th graders he showed how to build a thermometer using a water bottle and a soda straw. This is the first year WFO San Joaquin Valley staff participated in the week-long event.



WFO San Diego Holds Skywarn Field Day: WFO San Diego held its first ever Skywarn Field Day on Saturday and Sunday, June 26-27. Many contacts were made across the country during the 27-hour event, which was held at a campground near Palomar Mountain. Several of the participants spent the night camped out on the spot to take full advantage of the time available. Included in the photo is Skywarn Chairman Steve Smith (far right) and WFO San Diego's Warning Coordination Meteorologist Ed Clark (center).



Contra Costa County Becomes StormReady: On July 1, WFO Monterey conducted a StormReady ceremony for Contra Costa County, California, including the cities of Walnut Creek, Martinez, and Antioch. Contra Costa County has a population of nearly one million people. Pictured at the left is Monterey MIC Dave Reynolds presenting the Storm Ready certification to Contra Costa County Sheriff Warren E. Rupf and County Administrator John Sweeten.

HYDROLOGY AND CLIMATE SERVICES DIVISION



Retired CNRFC Forecaster Honored: Owen Rhea, Retired CNRFC Senior HAS Forecaster, was honored for his significant contributions to quantitative precipitation forecasting in mountainous terrain at the California Extreme Precipitation Symposium held at UC Davis on July 1, 2004. Congratulations Owen!

SCIENTIFIC SERVICES DIVISION

Local IFPS Images on the Public WFO Web Sites: WR SSD (Ed Ridley) has been working with OST/MDL (Dave Ruth's group) to display IFPS gridded data on the local Forecast Office web pages at full resolution. Approximately 2/3 of the WR offices produce the IFPS gridded forecast at 2.5km resolution. The test offices, such as Salt Lake City and San Diego are already available to the public. All WR offices will be available to the public by July 23. By WR and MDL collaborating, we are using a common set of image generation and graphical user interface software. As the user zooms out, the software automatically displays the large scale mosaic data produced by MDL on the NWSHQ server. The goal is to provide this software to all regions later this

summer. This is one of the first outcomes of the WR IFPS Web team.

Teletraining Sessions for July: The Virtual Institute for Satellite Integration Training (VISIT) and the Integrated Sensor Training Professional Development Series (ISTPDS) sessions for August are listed below. Offices can register for the teletraining sessions by sending email to: visit@comet.ucar.edu. The teletraining calendar is at: <http://www.cira.colostate.edu/ramm/visit/ecal.asp>

The sessions currently scheduled for August are:

- C NEW - QuikSCAT Winds
(Basic, Aug 3,12,17,25)
- C Forecasting Convective Downburst Potential Using GOES Sounder Derived Products
(Basic, Aug 10)
- C Interactive Cloud Height Algorithm and GOES Sounder Point Retrievals in AWIPS
(Basic, Aug 4, 24)
- C Water Vapor Channel Satellite Imagery
(Basic, Aug 9)
- C Lightning Meteorology I
(Basic, Aug 11)
- C Lightning Meteorology II
(Advanced, Aug 12)
- C The Enhanced-V: A Satellite Severe Storm Signature
(Basic, Aug 23)

All sessions can be reviewed in advance by following the instructions in the student guides available on the ISTPDS/VISIT page:

<http://www.cira.colostate.edu/ramm/visit/visithome.asp>.

North American Monsoon Experiment (NAME): The North American Monsoon Experiment is underway. On June 6, the NAME Forecast Operations Center began to issue guidance forecasts for the Tier-I region in northwest Mexico and the Southwest U.S. The Extended Observational Period (EOP) is underway and will continue through August 31.

Details on the experiment, including the daily forecast guidance for the NAME decision makers, can be found at: <http://www.joss.ucar.edu/name>.

SYSTEMS OPERATIONS DIVISION

NWR: The Las Vegas, NV SRS NWR transmitter was replaced with a G100 Armstrong. The transmitter was installed and accepted by Merri Richmond (WRH), Joe Lachacz (WRH), John Grznar (VEF), and Alberto Jiminez (VEF). The Las Vegas Electronics Team will assume maintenance responsibility for this site; thus, resulting in our being able to terminate contract maintenance while also providing a stronger signal to the area.

Program Review: Sean Wink (WRH) and Joe Lachacz (WRH) traveled to Billings, MT for an electronics program review. The reviews are performed at each office every two years. Kevin Bolton and Merri Richmond also assisted with equipment visits to two

ASOS sites, a NWR transmitter and the Radar.

AWPAG: Kevin Bolton (ASOS RMS) assisted the Elko, NV Electronics team with the install of an AWPAG and he also verified and reviewed the Modification note. The technicians accomplished this task on the heels of finishing with a Nexrad outage.

88D Assistance: Son Nguyen (Radar RMS) flew to Monterey, CA to assist in an extended Radar outage. Son worked with Curt Lutz (MTR) until 3:00 a.m. to fix the problem.

Short Staffed: George Montenegro (WRH) assisted the Hanford, CA office in ASOS PM's while their electronics staff is shorthanded.

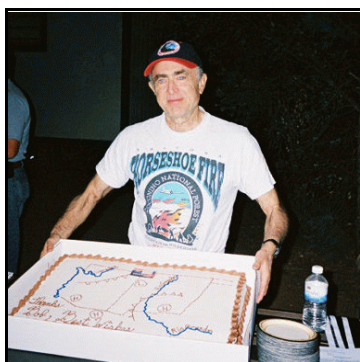
New Generator: Tom Page installed a generator for use at the Bear Lake Utah NOAA Weather Radio transmitter.

Missoula Air: Mike Hume went to Missoula to perform the quarterly Preventive Maintenance work. While in Missoula, Mike worked on solving the air handler problem.

IT Certification: Jeff Walker attended the training and workshop, held in Silver Spring MD, to cover the new information technology certification and accreditation process.

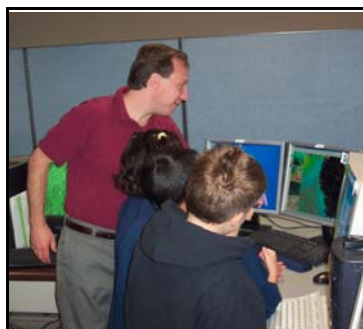
WEB Transition: The work to transition to the new WEB Farm continues. The deadline for switching over to the new WEB Farm is October 1, 2004. The first major milestone approaches; that is, by July 29 every office will have completed converting simple Web pages that mainly require hyperlink changes and conversion to PHP to work on the new WEB Farm directory structure and architecture.

AROUND THE REGION



Photos of the week:

Bob Berkovitz, of WFO Phoenix, was recently honored by the Southwest Incident Management Team. Bob served as the IMET on the Willow Fire in Central Arizona and was recognized for his hard work and dedication to Fire Agencies over the past 27 years. When asked for a show of hands of who had been trained by Bob, over 90 percent of attendees raised their hands. Bob is pictured at the left with a cake.



WFO Monterey recently conducted an office tour for class from the Monte Vista Childhood Center in Monterey. Pictured at the left is Dave Sokora with some of the students.